

REMARKS

Claims 3-11 and 15-28 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 2, and 12-14 are canceled without prejudice.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's statement that claims 3, 4, 15, and 16 include allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the statements put forth by the PTO in relation to claims 1, 2, 5-14, and 17-23. However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicant has rewritten claims 3 and 15 in independent form. Herein, additions are made to claims 3 and 15 for clarity. Claims 4-11 and 16-23 are amended to depend from allowable independent claims 3 or 15. Therefore, the presently presented claims 3-11 and 15-23 are allowable.

Claims 24-28 are added and include allowable subject matter.

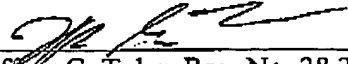
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicant would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, a call to the Applicant's representative listed below is requested.

Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

1-5-2005
Date


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